

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION

Tuesday, October 3. 1710.

I Stated the Case of the present Ministry, and the *High-Flying Cause*, in my last — And as I said then, *I say again*, it cannot be offensive to the present Government, to Describe, Expose, and Detect the Practices of those People, who are apparent Enemies to the Queen, and the Constitution.

But I am Attack'd as I go, with an *Angry Whig*, who tells me in so many Words, the Ministry are all *Tories*, and *High-Flyers* — And THE SHIP which I mention'd we were all Embark'd in, will be certainly loss'd, for these new Pilots are a Steering her directly for *St. Germain's*.

As there are *Knave-Tories*, so I never said there were no *Fool-Whigs*, and they must bear with me for saying so in this Case; I am not speaking of what they are now, but what they must be, when they come to Act: The Argument I am upon, can never be Resisted, and I am very Positive in it — I need not repeat it again, but I tell you, Sir, to put it in now. Words, let them be *Tories* or *High-Flyers*, or what they will before, *they must be Whigs now* — They are *Whigs by Office*, Act them be what they will *by Principle* — And this, I think, I am able to defend — And in this, they that hope in them as *Tories*,
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ries, will be disappointed; and that is the Thing I am upon.

The Consequence of this, is, that whenever they offer to A&A, as High-Flyers, or Tories, they A&A against their Office, and must turn out; I am speaking very plain, and yet it is such a Demonstrable Truth, that I cannot go from it — The Nature of the Thing makes it unavoidable, and 'tis most insufferable Nonsense to talk otherwise.

Can Light and Darknesh consist? Do they not pursue each other round the World, with a constant and steady Motion, and at an exact opposite Position? *Can a Revolution Queen, and an Abdicated Pretender consist? Is not Darknesh a privation of Light, and nothing else? Can a Possessing Pretender be any thing less, or more than a Depos'd Queen? a Popish Government, must, be a Privation of the Protestant Settlement Tyranny is a Privation of Liberty, and these can no more Consist, than Light and Darknesh.*

You have a Protestant Queen Establish'd by Law, *See the London Address, Legal Provisions, &c.* — Her Majesty is settled upon these *Legal Provisions*, against Popery: As her Majesty is Establish'd our Ruler by Law, so the Rules by Law; 'Tis her Honour that she does so, and 'tis her Safety too; the Laws are a Guard to the Sovereign, as well as to the Subject; whoever *Manages* under a Queen Ruling by Law, must Manage according to Law; for if the Administration is not Legal, the Queen does not Rule by Law — While then the Ministry Rule by Law, they can neither be Jacobites nor Tory, for neither of these are Consistent with the *Legal Provisions made to Secure us against Popery, and Arbitrary Power*; Jacobitism is Popery, and Toryism is Arbitrary Power, both these are Incompatible, and utterly inconsistent with the *Legal Provisions*, which it is own'd our Government stands upon.

And now, Gentlemen, having thus plainly laid down the Thing, let me illustrate it by Examples, and whether shall I go for them? — Indeed I'll bring them very

close, I'll fetch them from the Queen, the New Ministry, and the High-Flyers themselves.

In all the Actions of any of these three, *What is the Preamble? What the Introduction? What the Pretence? — What out-side does every thing bear? — The Queen Prefaces all her Publick Actions, and we have no Reason to doubt in the greatest sincerity, with the Good of her Subjects; the Ministry Introduce every Action they do, with its being for her Majesty's Service — The Party Abroad cover all their Actions, with the good of the Church and Publick Peace.*

Now let us leave searching of Hearts, to the Great Searcher of all Hearts, *this is none of my Work*, but this is to my purpose, and for this Reason I mention it; the out-side of every thing must have a Varnish of Whiggism — Why is it? Because the *Legal Provisions* of the Revolution are our Foundation — The Laws have Establish'd Government and Obedience, set due Bounds and Limitations to both, and neither can exceed, without Invasion of the Rights of the whole; no Infringement can be made, but it is Treason to the Constitution — And therefore the People of Shrewsbury, Good Gentle Folks, knew not what they said, when they talk'd of an *Unlimited Obedience*; alas! did they know they talk'd Treason against the Foundation of the Government; *Unlimited Obedience*, is in its Nature a Trayterous Conspiracy against the Constitution of this Protestant Nation, and lays it open to Popery, Tyranny, and all kinds of Oppression, whenever a Profligate Abandon'd Tyrant shall happen to obtain the Crown.

The Queen desires no such Obedience, 'tis no Compliment at all to her Majesty, 'tis really an Affront to her, and boldly suggests, her Majesty would Command something, which requires to have the *Limitation of the Laws* taken off, which is a horrid Piece of *Shropshire Manners*, which the Queen ought not to be Treated with, and which her Majesty has given us no Reason to think is acceptable to her at all.

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The Queen is an Excellent Example to take this Argument from, her Majesty does nothing, but it is Prefac'd with this Phrase, *According to Law* ; whereas by such or such Acts of Parliament, it is provided SO and SO — Pursuant to an Act of Parliament, in that Case made and provided, and the like ; this makes it apparent, her Majesty's Actions are Guided, as her Authority is Limited by the Laws ; and as her Majesty does not herself any thing, but what is Guided by the Laws, so neither can the Queen, without great Breach of Decency, be suppos'd to expect or desire, that any of her Servants should Act contrary to the Law, nay, I may go farther, and may say, if they do, even the Queen her self cannot protect them.

Well then, here's our Safety ; the Law is the Limitation of both Governour and Governed, the Boundary of Government and Obedience, the Protection of both, and the Circle in which both are prescrib'd : If our New Ministry, as we call them, keep within the Bounds of it, we have nothing to fear, if they go beyond the Bounds of it, they have nothing to hope — If they are Mad Men, and blinded by Fate, to their own Destruction — No Man can save them, and few will pity them ; they may flee to the Fire, — no man will stay them : But you must first suppose them really Distracted, worse than common Bedlamites, that have not lost their Reason only, but that have not Senses enough to keep out of the Fire, or from under a Millstone ; and if so — Let them go on, who can help them.

On the other Hand, if you suppose them in their Senses, you are to suppose them to Act Legally, and, as before, to Act Legally, is to Act Whiggishly — It must be so, for our Laws are all Whig-Laws at this Time — I know some People will suggest, that a Parliament may come, that may Abrogate our Good Laws, &c.

This, I say, is possible, but not practicable, and shall not be long before I tell you again, that choose who you will, we will have a Whig Parliament — If any man shall say to me, this is to make the People Careless who they Elect, I Answer, far from it — For if they Choose a Tory, and he must be a Whig when he comes up, had they not better Choose one that is a Whig already, that the Work may be done *Ex Animo*, and naturally, not by Constraint ?

There is, I own, a Safety in our Constitution, which not the Parliament itself can overthrow, which like the Stone in the Gospel, whoever Stumbles at it, shall be broken, and on whomsoever it falls, it shall Grind him to Powder — And this Safety consists in the General Collective Body of the People, let them Quarrel at the Word as long as they will, they cannot Resist the Thing : These are they, who will not have this (*Papery*) to Reign over them ; but it is hard we should have this *Constitution-Work* to do over again every Age ; 'tis now settled, the Revolution Restor'd it, and has fortify'd it with Laws, which I hope are Impregnable ; and 'tis not to be broken ; but it should be our Care, never to entrust Men that have not a firm Zeal for this Constitution, to preserve it Sacred and entire, for tho' K. . . . CAN NOT, and I hope, and believe never shall be able to overthrow it — Yet they may Injure, Embarrass, and perplex it, and us, and open the Door to that Foreign Enemy, who would Dissolve and Destroy it ; and this methinks, should be caution enough to our Freeholders and Electors, in the approaching Choice of Members of Parliament, of which nevertheless, I may say more hereafter.

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